

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-16 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 17-24 and 31 are amended to change the dependencies to the presented claims from the cancelled claims. Claims 32-46 are new.

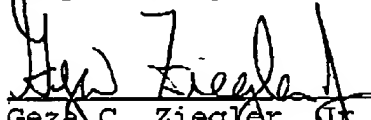
2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 7, 8, 25 and 27-29. The changes to the claims in this amendment clearly place the application in a proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of \$980.00 for a three-month extension of time together with any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

In the event the Examiner refuses to enter this amendment, the Examiner is requested to consider this amendment as the submission requirement for purposes of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114, and to consider this as a Request for Continued Examination so as to prevent any abandonment of the application.

In this event, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the fee for a Request for Continued Examination together with any other fees associated with this request or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,084

13 December 2004
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below.

Date: 13 December 2004

Signature: Meaghan Baye